

Message Text

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FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT CAPE TOWN 957 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DURBAN JOHANNESBURG
PRETORIA 12 MAY 78 QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 957

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SF, US
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY OFFICER'S PUBLIC REMARKS
ABOUT SENATOR CLARK

REF: STATE 119854,

1. FOURIE CALLED ME IN TODAY TO SAY HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO RAISE THE MATTER OF REMARKS ABOUT SENATOR CLARK BY THE
ECONOMIC COUNSELOR OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON,
JAN VAN ROOYEN. FOURIE SAID HE HAD A FULL REPORT ON THE
MATTER, AND IT APPEARED THAT VAN ROOYEN'S COMMENTS HAD
BEEN MADE DURING A PRIVATE LUNCHEON AT THE HOME OF STATE
SENATOR STEPHEN BISENIUS; OTHER STATE LEGISLATORS WERE
ALSO PRESENT. AT SEEMED, HE SAID, VAN ROOYEN'S REMARKS
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HAD BEEN LEAKED TO THE PRESS.

2. FOURIE SUGGESTED THAT IN SIMILAR PRIVATE CIRCUMSTANCES
IT IS CONCEIVABLE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF
MIGHT ON OCCASION MAKE DISPARAGING ALLUSIONS TO THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES OR TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.
HE ALSO SAID THERE HAD LONG BEEN CONCERN IN THE SAG

ABOUT CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICERS IN SOUTH AFRICA CONSIDERED INTERVENTION IN THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE CITED AS EXAMPLES OUR CONTACTS WITH STUDENT MILITANTS AND THE OPERATION OF THE SOWETO READING ROOM. THESE CONCERNS HAD ON OCCASION BEEN BROUGHT TO THE US AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION, BUT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS TRIED TO PLAY DOWN THE MATTER WHEN OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED. I NOTED THAT IN THE VAN ROOYEN CASE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY WAS INVOLVED AND IT HAD COME DURING A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, FOURIE SAID, WAS BEING PRESSED BY THE MEDIA FOR REACTION AND HE INTENDED TO MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT, SAYING THAT THE U.S. CHARGE HAD BEEN CALLED IN FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE "ACTIVITIES" OF THE OFFICERS OF OUR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES. HE WOULD ALSO BE MAKING A REFERENCE TO HIS APPEARANCE ON TV IN THE UNITED STATES LAST YEAR WITH SENATOR CLARK DURING WHICH HE (BOTH) HAD COMMENTED HE WAS SURE THE SENATOR DID NOT HAVE A MANDATE FROM THE PEOPLE OF IOWA TO DENIGRATE SOUTH AFRICA.

4. THE SAG, FOURIE CONCLUDED, WOULD LEAVE THE MATTER AT THAT. NELSON

UNQUOTE VANCE

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